

Poisonous Plant Resource Sheet for Child Care Providers

This resource sheet lists common plants involved in external and internal plant poisonings, as well as web and institutional resources available to aid in plant identification and plant poisoning cases. The list of plants is in no way exhaustive. It is merely meant to serve as a brief overview of some common plants.

Common plants causing skin irritation or dermatitis

Bull nettle (*Cnidioscolus stimulosus*)
 Spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*)
 Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
 Poison oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*)
 Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
 Wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*)

Common and cultivated plants causing internal poisoning to various degrees upon ingestion of indicated parts

INDOOR PLANTS

Aroids (<i>Dieffenbachia</i> , <i>Monstera</i> , <i>Philodendron</i> , <i>Spathiphyllum</i>)	Leaves
Mistletoe (<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>)	Berries
Poinsettia (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>)	Milky sap

OUTDOOR PLANTS

Trees

Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	All parts, except ripe fruit flesh
Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Inner bark, twigs, young leaves, seeds
Mulberry (<i>Morus</i> spp.)	Unripe fruits and milky sap

Shrubs and bedding plants

Azalea (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)	All parts
Boxwood (<i>Buxus</i> spp.)	Leaves
Caladium (<i>Caladium</i> spp.)	All parts
Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	All parts
Castor-bean (<i>Ricinus communis</i>)	Seeds
Heavenly-bamboo (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)	Berries (potentially)
Hollies (<i>Ilex</i> spp.)	Berries, when eaten in quantity
Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea</i> spp.)	Bark, leaves, flower buds
Jimsonweed (<i>Datura stramonium</i>)	All parts
Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>)	Unripe fruits
Lobelia (<i>Lobelia</i> spp.)	All parts
Madagascar periwinkle (<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>)	All parts
Mountain-laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)	All parts
Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	All parts
Pokeweed (<i>Phytolacca americana</i>)	All mature parts
Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)	All parts

Sheep-laurel, Lamb-kill (<i>Kalmia</i> spp.)	All parts
Tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>)	Stems and leaves

Vines

English ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	All parts
Hyacinth bean (<i>Dolichos lablab</i>)	Pods and seeds
Peppervine (<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>)	Unknown, caution with berries
Porcelain berry (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>)	Unknown, caution with berries
Sweet Pea (<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.)	Seeds
Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.)	Seeds
Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	Berries
Yellow Allamanda (<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>)	All parts
Yellow jessamine (<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>)	All parts
Wisteria (<i>Wisteria</i> spp.)	Seeds

How to avoid plant poisoning

1. Learn to recognize and name the dangerous plants around your facility.
2. Keep plants and plant parts away from infants and children
3. Teach children to keep unknown plants and plant parts out of their mouths
4. Teach children to recognize poison-ivy and other dermatitis-causing plants
5. Do not allow children to make “tea” from leaves or suck nectar from flowers
6. Do not rely on pets, birds, squirrels, or other animals to indicate non-poisonous plants.
7. Label garden seeds and bulbs and store out of reach of children
8. Be pro-active. If unsure of whether or not a plant around your facility is poisonous, mail a sample to the NC State University Herbarium for identification:

Herbarium, Department of Botany

NC State University

Raleigh, NC 27695-7612

Additional information, including how to prepare specimens and which forms should be filled out, is available online: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/botany/ncsc/identification.htm>

In case of emergencies

Call a physician or the **Carolina's Poison Center (1-800-848-6946)** immediately!

Be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Name of the plant, if known
2. What parts and how much were eaten
3. How long ago was it eaten
4. Age of individual
5. Symptoms observed
6. A good description of the plant. **Save the specimen** for identification by a plant taxonomist at a local university (e.g., NCSU Herbarium Curator @ 919-515-2700).

Online poisonous plant resources from NC State University

1. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/poison.htm>
2. <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/botany/ncsc/Poisonplants/index.htm>